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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Interview With:

Raymond Rocca

Interviewers:

Dan Dwyer and Ed Greissing

DATE:

3/15/76

Place:

Arlington, VA

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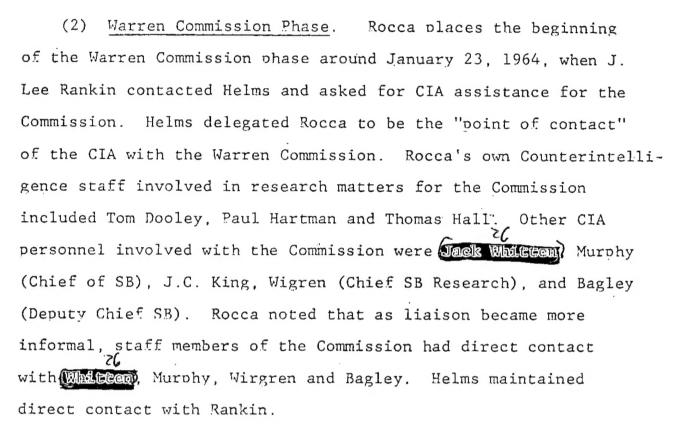
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Ed Greissing and Dan Dwyer of the SSC staff interviewed Raymond Rocca, retired Chief, Counterintelligence/Research and Analysis, CIA, at his home in Arlington, Virginia on March 15, 1976. The purpose of the interview was to clarify the role of the CIA in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

(1) The GPFLOOR Phase. The GPFLOOR phase of the CIA's investigation of the assassination covered the period of November 23, 1963 until January 23, 1964. Rocca explained that Richard Helms, DDP, delegated Jack Whiteen, desk chief of the Western Hemisphere division, to direct and control the CIA's responses to information that was being reported from CIA stations around the globe. Most of the information the CIA received came from Mexico City where Oswald had contacted the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic establishments in late September and early October. Rocca noted that Thomas Karamessines, Assistant DDP, was probably involved in Helms' decision to have Jack Whiteten direct the GPFLOOR investigation.

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Rocca emphasized that the Warren Commission phase was not interpreted by CIA as an investigation. Rocca said that when the Warren Commission "task force" was established, all cables and materials generated in the GPFLOOR period from whiteen's desk were made available to the task force. Rocca added, however, that the task force made no appraisal of the GPFLOOR phase. When questioned if the Warren Commission "task force" reviewed Mexico City traffic to check name traces, for example, Rocca replied the material was left alone except for the allegations such as the Alvarado matter which concerned the Commission.





Cuba. Rocca also suggested that J.C. King might have known of some sensitive operations in general but that he would have been left out on specifics. Rocca added that Whiteen "might have known about sensitive operations through osmosis" because as desk Chief, Western Hemisphere, would send out traffic to stations including traffic dealing with operations.

Rocca noted that the DDP or Director could have by-passed the by authoring and cabling a message themselves.

With regard to Western Hemisphere cable traffic and assassination plots, Rocca noted that in April 1975 there was an individual (name unknown) from Western Hemisphere appointed by Dave Phillips to work with the Inspector General. This individual found the memo that discussed Desmond Fitzgerald's having used Robert Kennedy's name in meeting with AMLASH, in the WH files.

(5) <u>Miscellaneous</u>. Rocca saw nothing strange in the FBI report on Oswald's FPCC activities being routed to SAS.

He stated that SAS would have received all reports of relevance to Cuba.

Rocca could offer no explanation as to why the WAVE cable discussing anti-Castro groups' public statement on the assassination was filed in the "sensitive Ops-Kennedy file" and later placed in the Oswald 201 file.

